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Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Douglas McCrory and Representative Robert Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Eric Berthel and Representative Kathleen McCarty, and Committee Members:

I strongly support passage of:

HB-5285, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

I am a scientist closely familiar with the developments in climate science and news reports of weather and climate extreme events in recent years. Scientists now unequivocally emphasize the need for early, ambitious, and significant actions to mitigate further emissions of greenhouse gases to minimize further warming of our planet.

HB-5285, among its provisions, would require that all school districts provide climate change instruction as part of the science curriculum. It mandates that this instruction be consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards.

The children currently in our schools, now aged 5 to 18, are expected to live to the turn of the next century and beyond. The world is already experiencing the ravages brought on by worsening global warming and its consequential changes in climate. Many are calling the present weather and climate extremes a climate crisis or emergency because insufficient action in the past is projected to exacerbate the effects in the future.

Our children will mature into this intensification of warming and climate extremes. They will be confronting new challenges in dealing with these eventualities. It is imperative that we convey to them the knowledge and tools to do so. Sir Francis Bacon [said](#) (1597) "knowledge is power".

For these reasons I urge the Committee to act favorably on HB-5285.

Respectfully,

Henry E. Auer